AVATAR

The Last Airbender

Show #111

BOOK ONE: WATER
CHAPTER ELEVEN: "The Great Divide"

Written by

John O'Bryan

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ACT I

EXT. FOREST CAMPSITE - DAY

SOKKA fumbles as he tries to erect a tent. KATARA returns to the campsite, her arms overloaded with sticks and twigs. She indicates a rolled up tarp.

KATARA
Uhh... aren't you forgetting the tarp?

SOKKA
Right, got it.

He grabs it and tosses it into the tent.

KATARA
Sokka, you're supposed to put the tarp on top of the tent. You know, so we don't get rained on.

SOKKA
Ordinarily, you'd be right. But seeing how it's the dry season, you're not. Besides, that tarp makes a pretty warm blanket.

KATARA
But what if it does rain?

SOKKA
What if it doesn't? Then I would have put the tarp up for nothing.

KATARA
You're infuriating!

SOKKA
Katara, why don't you worry about gathering the firewood? Because that kindlings looking pret-ty sorry.

KATARA
(offended)
Well if you don't like my firewood...

Katara throws her sticks and twigs back into the woods.

SOKKA
Fine by me. If you're not going to do your job...

He pulls out a tent support, collapsing the entire tent. They both turn away from each other angrily. Just then, AANG comes out of the woods carrying a big stash of nuts and berries in his shirt.

AANG
Okay, I got the grub if you guys got the--
(noticing)
Hey, where's the campfire? And what happened to the tent?

SOKKA
(pointedly, at Katara)
Why don't you ask miss know-it-all, queen of the twigs?

KATARA
(badly improvising)
Oh yeah? Well you're... mister lazy-bum... king of the... tents.

AANG
(CHUCKLES) Okay. Listen guys: harsh words won't solve problems. Action will. Why don't you just switch jobs?

Katara and Sokka glance at each other and shrug.

KATARA
Sounds good.

SOKKA
Whatever.

Katara grabs the tent poles and Sokka begins collecting sticks for the fire. Aang gets a glow of satisfaction.

AANG
You see that? Settling feuds and making peace... all in a day's work for the Avatar.

He turns to see that MOMO and APPA are fighting over a melon. Aang grabs the melon and CHOPS it in two with Airbending. He gives the bigger piece to Appa, and a much smaller one to Momo. The lemur CHIRRUPS in protest.

AANG
Come on Momo, that's fair. Appa's got five stomachs.

EXT. CANYON RIM - LATER

The kids and Appa are standing at the edge of the biggest canyon in the entire Avatar World.

AANG
There it is, guys. The Great Divide.

They stare for a beat.

KATARA
Wow, I could just stare at it forever.

A beat.

SOKKA
(bored)
Okay, I've seen enough.

KATARA
How can you not be fascinated, Sokka? This is the largest canyon in the entire world.

SOKKA
Then I'm sure we'll be able to see it very clearly from the air while we fly away.

They are suddenly hounded by a small, pushy SCOUT from the Gan Jin tribe. He is neatly dressed and affects a too proper demeanor.

GAN JIN SCOUT
Hey, if you're looking for the canyon guide, I was here first!

KATARA
Ooh, canyon guide -- sounds informative!

Sokka rolls his eyes.

GAN JIN SCOUT
Believe me, he's more than a tour guide. He's an Earthbender, and the only way in and out of the canyon is with his help. And he's taking my tribe across next!

SOKKA
Calm down, we know you're next.

GAN JIN SCOUT
You wouldn't be calm if the Fire Nation destroyed your home and forced you to flee. My whole tribe has to walk thousands of miles to the capital city of Ba Sing Se.

KATARA
You're a refugee.

GAN JIN SCOUT
Tell me something I don't know.

Katara spots a large group of messy-looking travelers coming down the path in the distance.

KATARA
Is that your tribe?

The scout looks at them and reacts with disgust.

GAN JIN SCOUT
It most certainly is not! That's the Zhang tribe, a bunch of lowlife thieves! They've been the enemies of my tribe for a hundred years.

He yells to them as they approach the edge of the canyon.

GAN JIN SCOUT
Hey, Zhangs! I'm saving a spot for my tribe, so don't even think of stealing it!

The ZHANG LEADER -- a slightly messy, tough-looking woman -- answers him.

ZHANG LEADER
Where are the rest of the Gan Jin? Still tidying up their campsite?

GAN JIN SCOUT
Yes. But they sent me ahead of them to hold a spot.

ZHANG LEADER
I didn't know the canyon guide took reservations.

GAN JIN SCOUT
Of course you didn't. That's the ignorance I'd expect from a messy Zhang -- so unorganized and ill-prepared for a journey.

Aang, Katara, and Sokka exchange looks of concern. Just as the angry MURMURING is beginning to grow amongst the refugees, an old, leathery CANYON GUIDE emerges, Earthbending his way out from the gorge.

CANYON GUIDE
Sorry about the wait, youngsters. Who's ready to cross this here canyon?

KATARA
Uhh... one of them I think.

GAN JIN SCOUT
I was here first! My party's on their way!

CANYON GUIDE
I can't guide people who aren't here.

ZHANG LEADER
(victorious)
Guess you guys will have to make the trip tomorrow.

GAN JIN SCOUT
Wait! Here they come.

We see the neatly dressed GAN JIN TRIBE approaching in orderly lines. The Zhangs MOAN in disappointment as the scout rejoices.

ZHANG LEADER
(to canyon guide)
You're not seriously going to cave in to these spoiled Gan Jins. I mean, we're refugees too. And we've got sick people that need shelter.

CANYON GUIDE
I, uh, well...

GAN JIN SCOUT
We've got old people who are weary from traveling.

ZHANG LEADER
Sick people get priority over old people!

GAN JIN LEADER
Maybe you Zhangs wouldn’t have so many sick people if you weren’t such slobs!

ZHANG LEADER
If you Gan Jins weren’t so clean, maybe you wouldn’t live to be so old!

GAN JIN LEADER
I could smell you stink a mile away.

ZHANG LEADER
Well maybe you like to be dirty

All of the refugees begin full-on BICKERING. Katara turns to Aang.

KATARA
Well Aang, ready to put your peacemaking skills to the test?

AANG
(unsure)
I don’t know... a fight over chores is one thing -- these people have been feuding for a hundred years.

Katara ignores Aang, and addresses the refugees over their bickering.

KATARA
Everyone listen up! This is the Avatar, and if you give him a chance I’m sure he can come up with a compromise that will make everyone happy.

Everyone looks to Aang. A beat of silence as they wait for him to talk.

AANG
Uh... you could share the Earthbender and travel together?

They all glare at Aang for a beat.

GAN JIN LEADER
Absolutely not! We'd rather be taken by the Fire Nation than travel with those stinking thieves.

ZHANG LEADER
We wouldn't travel with you pompous fools, anyway!

They erupt in angry MUMBLING once again. Aang gets a determined look on his face.

AANG
(forceful)
Alright, here's the deal. You're all going down together, and Appa here will fly your sick and elderly across. Does that seem fair?

All of the refugees look at Appa, then at their respective leaders for approval.

EXT. CANYON RIM - CANYON GUIDE STATION - LATER

Appa's back is now loaded with refugees as the two tribes finish saddling their sick and elderly. Appa WHIMPERS as Aang pats him comfortingly on the nose.

AANG
Sorry, Appa. You'll have to do this on your own.

SOKKA
Aang, this feuding tribe stuff is serious business. Are you <u>sure</u> it's a good idea getting involved in this?

AANG
To tell the truth... I'm not sure.
(smiles)
But when have I ever been?

KATARA
He's the Avatar, Sokka -- making peace between people is his job.

Sokka stares into the enormous canyon with dread.

SOKKA
His job's going to make us cross the whole thing on foot, isn't it?

The canyon guide comes out of his ‘station’ -- a crappy shack nearby.

CANYON GUIDE
(to everyone)
Okay, now comes the bad news -- No food allowed in the canyon. It attracts dangerous predators.

All of the refugees release a mutual WHINE.

CANYON GUIDE
Aw, you babies can go a day without food. Would you rather be hungry or dead? Now, we’re heading down in ten minutes. All food better be in your gut or in the garbage.

Everybody reaches into their satchels and begins stuffing their faces with their remaining food. With Appa fully loaded with refugees, Aang bids him goodbye.

AANG
(to refugees)
Appa’s going to take good care of you till we get there. See you on the other side, buddy.
(to Appa)
Yip-yip!

He SLAPS Appa affectionately on the tush, signaling him to take-off.

EXT. CANYON WALL - LATER

Aang and the canyon guide walks ahead of the refugees as they descend into the canyon. The trail switches back and forth along the steep interior wall.

The canyon guide suddenly stops Aang with his arm. He points to the ground, where a large chunk of the pathway is missing. With his bending, he STRETCHES THE EARTH across the gap, completing the path.

AANG
(impressed)
Nice bending.

CANYON GUIDE
The job’s much more than bending, kid. Folks want information...

Suddenly, the guide assumes a ‘tour guide’ persona as he points out the wonders of the canyon to everyone.

CANYON GUIDE
Many of you are probably wondering how canyons are formed. Experts tell us this canyon was most likely carved into the ground by earth spirits, who were angry at local farmers for not offering them a proper sacrifice...

Just then, the guide stops his presentation. Everyone GASPS as they see a ROCKSLIDE crashing toward them. The guide quickly bends all of the rocks away from the travelers. Everybody uncovers their eyes to see that they’re safe. The canyon guide resumes his tour guide persona without missing a beat.

CANYON GUIDE
(joking)
Guess the spirits are still angry. Hope you all brought sacrifices!

EXT. LOWER CANYON WALL - LATE IN THE DAY

The group winds its way down to the canyon floor.

CANYON GUIDE
Okay, everyone stand clear of the wall!

The travellers obey, moving away from the canyon wall. The canyon guide performs a STRONG EARTHBENDING STRIKE that shakes the wall. The path he created in the side of the cliff begins to CRUMBLE. Large pieces of it CRASH to the ground in front of them.

AANG
Why did you do that?

CANYON GUIDE
These people are fleeing the Fire Nation, aren’t they? Got to make sure we can’t be followed.
(brushing his hands clean)
We’ll be safe now.

Suddenly, the guide is alerted by a SCURRYING sound. As the guide turns around, he is suddenly RIPPED from the ground by something ferocious!

CANYON GUIDE
(TERRIFIED SCREAM)

WIDEN TO reveal a large, terrifying monster resembling a spider/crocodile hybrid -- picture a giant spider with huge crocodile jaws. It grips the canyon guide in its powerful jaws and WHIPS him around by the arm.

SOKKA
We gotta help him!

Sokka reaches for his boomerang and hurls it at the beast. It strikes it in the eye, dazing it and allowing the guide to wriggle free in the commotion. He stumbles away, favoring his injured arm. The monster is now truly pissed. It charges at Sokka.

SOKKA
(panic-stricken)
Okay, now we gotta help me!

Katara Waterbends, swatting at the animal, trying to drive it away. The beast turns and snaps at Katara. She rolls out of the way as it misses and CRUNCHES through a large boulder.

The monster again turns to Katara, but before it can pounce, Aang knocks it away with a swing of his air staff. The monster SNAPS at Aang, getting nothing but air in its bite. It SNAPS AGAIN and AGAIN, growing increasingly frustrated with each miss. Then...

Aang unleashes a powerful DUST TORRENT right down the beast's throat. The animal CHOKES and wretches on the dust. As it writhes, its tail WHIPS around and lands another heavy blow on the canyon guide.

Aang sees an opening -- he creates another much larger dust blast and hurls it at the monster. It engulfs the animal like a twister, and then SLAMS it into the canyon wall. With an awful SCREECH, the monster scurries away down the canyon.

AANG
(winded)
What... was... that?

CANYON GUIDE (O.S.)
Canyon crawler. (WAILS IN PAIN)
And there's sure to be more.

As the dust settles, we see the canyon guide lying on the ground, both of his arms clearly injured. Katara tends to his wounds.

KATARA
Your arms -- they’re broken?

CANYON GUIDE
Without my arms, I got no bending.
In other words...

AANG
We’re trapped in this canyon.

The guide nods. Despair sets in.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. CANYON FLOOR - SUNSET

Katara tends to the canyon guide's wounds, improvising a splint from their supplies.

SOKKA
I thought the whole point of ditching our food was so we wouldn't have to deal with things like... 'canyon crawlers'!

Everyone looks at each other suspiciously. Suddenly, the Gan Jin leader points his finger.

GAN JIN LEADER
It's the Zhangs! They took food down here even after the guide told them not to!

ZHANG LEADER
What?! If there's anyone who can't go without food for a day, it's you pampered Gan Jins!

GAN JIN LEADER
I hope you're happy. We're stuck in this canyon with no way out!

ZHANG LEADER
Why don't you thank yourself, food-hider?

Aang's head spins back and forth between the two arguing leaders. He tries to step in...

AANG
Look, sticking together is the only way--

ZHANG LEADER
(re: Gan Jin leader)
I'm not walking another step with the likes of them!

GAN JIN LEADER
Now there's something we can agree on!

In desperation, Aang turns to the old canyon guide for help.

AANG
Any ideas?

Aang looks in the old Earthbender's eyes and sees he is starting to lose it.

CANYON GUIDE
No bending... We need to get out of this canyon. I won't die down here... I won't become part of the food chain!

The Gan Jin leader hears this and becomes even more unhinged.

GAN JIN LEADER
(to Zhang leader)
See! We're going to become part of the food chain because of you!

ZHANG LEADER
Sure, unjustly blame the Zhangs like you always do!

GAN JIN LEADER
Gladly.

AANG
(loud)
Enough!

Everyone stops and is quiet.

AANG
(frustrated)
I thought I could help you guys get along, but I guess that's not going to happen.

A beat as this sinks in.

AANG
We should split up. Gan Jins on this side, and Zhangs on that side. We'll travel in two separate lines.

The two leaders nod in agreement. They gladly begin separating. Aang motions for Katara and Sokka to linger.

AANG
Sokka, you go with the Zhangs. And Katara, you go with the Gan Jins.
(MORE)

AANG(cont'd)
See if you can find out why they hate each other so much.

EXT. CAMPSITE - SUNSET

Sokka is watching his Zhang comrades as they set up their tents.

SOKKA
So, you guys aren’t going to put up your tarps?

ZHANG LEADER
What for? It’s the dry season.

SOKKA
Exactly!

ZHANG LEADER
Besides, we like to use the tarp as a blanket.

Sokka GRINS.

SOKKA
Finally, someone gets it.

EXT. GAN JIN CAMPSITE - SUNSET

Katara watches as the Gan Jins expertly tie a tarp up over their tent.

KATARA
You really think it’ll rain?

GAN JIN LEADER
No. But you can never be too careful, right?

Katara beams. She’s happy to hear someone who agrees with her.

EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Katara is sitting around a campfire with the Gan Jins, doing her best to sit up with their pristine posture. Then she sees they are dividing a loaf of bread they smuggled into the canyon! Katara can’t believe her eyes.

GAN JIN LEADER
Would you care for some bread, Katara?

KATARA
So it was you guys who had food.

GAN JIN LEADER
Oh, come now. You really think that tribe of thieves isn't smuggling food? Why should my people go hungry when the sneaky Zhangs are stuffing their faces?

KATARA
(her stomach growls)
Well... I guess it's okay if everyone's doing it...

She takes a piece of bread and begins eating.

KATARA
So... Why does your tribe hate the Zhangs so much?

GAN JIN LEADER
You seem like a smart girl, Katara. I bet you would enjoy hearing some history...

EXT. EARTH KINGDOM COUNTRYSIDE - FLASHBACK

An Earthbender shaman is handing a CRYSTAL ORB to a young warrior named JIN WEI, portrayed here as especially handsome and strong. Jin Wei wraps the Orb in a cloth and packs it away.

GAN JIN LEADER (V.O.)
The patriarch of our tribe, Jin Wei, was an Earthbender warrior who was assigned an important duty -- transporting our Sacred Orb from the Great Eastern Gate to the Great Western Gate. Taking the Orb from the East to the West represents the Sun's rising and setting. It was our tribe's ancient redemption ritual.

Jin Wei transports the Orb across several miles of Earth Kingdom to the opposite gate. As he approaches, he is gawked at by several hillbilly rubes -- the Zhangs.

GAN JIN LEADER (V.O.)
But as he approached the gate, Jin Wei was attacked by one of the Zhang -- a vermin named Wei Jin, who looked at the Orb with envy.

Wei Jin, depicted as a sleazy Zhang hooligan, sneaks up on Jin Wei and CLOBBERS him. The Orb drops to the ground.

GAN JIN LEADER (V.O.)
That coward Wei Jin knocked Jin Wei to the ground, and stole our Sacred Orb.

Wei Jin picks up the Orb and flees.

EXT. CANYON FLOOR - PRESENT

The Gan Jin leader wraps up his story.

GAN JIN LEADER
Our people have never forgotten. You can never trust a Zhang.

Katara looks at Zhang campsite with suspicion.

EXT. ZHANG CAMPSITE - THAT MOMENT

The Zhang leader offers Sokka some kind of meat.

ZHANG LEADER
Care for some meat?

SOKKA
Would I!

He SHOVES the meat in his mouth all at once.

ZHANG LEADER
I know what you must be thinking -- we’re horrible for endangering everybody by bringing food down here.

SOKKA
(with mouth full)
Mm-hmm.

ZHANG LEADER
The Gan Jin think so badly of us, they probably assumed we brought food in, and decided to bring food in themselves... that's why we brought food in.

SOKKA
(with mouth full, big understanding nod)
Mmm.

ZHANG LEADER
Our conflict with the Gan Jin goes back over a hundred years...

EXT. EARTH KINGDOM COUNTRYSIDE - FLASHBACK

In this version, Wei Jin is portrayed as a stunning, gallant warrior.

ZHANG LEADER (V.O.)
Our forefather Wei Jin was leaving the Western Gate of our village, when he saw a figure in the distance...

Wei Jin peers into the distance and sees a figure lying motionless. He dutifully runs to check on the person.

ZHANG LEADER (V.O.)
It was a man of the Gan Jin tribe -- Jin Wei -- collapsed on the ground, Noble Wei Jin stopped to help him.

As Wei Jin tends to the injured Jin Wei (in this version a skinny weakling), he notices something glistening in the sun beside the man. It's a CRYSTAL ORB. Wei Jin studies it.

ZHANG LEADER (V.O.)
Jin Wei was transporting a Sacred Orb -- a very powerful relic used in his tribe's redemption ritual. Wei Jin tried to tend to the man's wounds, but Jin Wei insisted that the Orb was more important, and asked him to take it back to his tribe. Kind Wei Jin promised to send help for the man as soon as he could.

Wei Jin picks up the Orb and carefully conceals it. Wei Jin runs toward the Eastern Gate, holding the Orb.

ZHANG LEADER (V.O.)
But as Wei Jin crossed the border to return the Orb into Gan Jin territory, he was arrested.

We see Wei Jin being apprehended at the border. Wei Jin tries to explain to the guards, but they muscle him to the ground and take the Orb.

ZHANG LEADER (V.O.)
Instead of thanking him for his kind and selfless deed, they sentenced him to twenty long years in prison.

Wei Jin is thrown into a dark dungeon.

EXT. ZHANG CAMPSITE - PRESENT

The Zhang Leader wraps up his story.

ZHANG LEADER
We Zhangs will never forget that injustice.

SOKKA
That’s just terrible.
(beat)
You going to finish that?

The Zhang leader eats the meat.

EXT. CANYON FLOOR - THAT MOMENT

Aang is sitting all alone with Momo.

AANG
Sure would be nice to be around one of those campfires... telling stories and laughing.

Momo CHIRRUPS comfortingly.

AANG
It’s okay, Momo. We’ll be out of here soon enough, and then we can eat our weight in lychee nuts.

Momo sees a fat bug flying by, and quickly POPS it into his mouth. He pulls a piece out of his mouth and offers it to Aang.

AANG
Nah, I'll wait for the lychee nuts.

CANYON GUIDE (O.S.)
It's lonely, isn't it? Being impartial.

Startled, Aang turns to see the old canyon guide walk out of the shadows. The old man sits on the ground, his bones POPPING all the way down. He props up his injured limbs on two large rocks and gets cozy.

AANG
I wish I could help these people get along, but it just seems impossible. Anyhow, I guess our biggest problem is getting out of here.

CANYON GUIDE
I'm not so sure the two problems are unrelated.

The guide lays his head down and drifts off to sleep, leaving Aang to ponder his words.

EXT. CANYON FLOOR - THE FOLLOWING MORNING

The guide stands on a tall rock and gazes around the canyon.

CANYON GUIDE
All clear. We're almost to the other side.

The refugees press ahead as Aang motions for Sokka and Katara to stay.

AANG
Katara... Sokka... will these people cooperate long enough to get out of the canyon?

KATARA
I don't think so, Aang. The Zhangs really wronged the Gan Jins. They ambushed Jin Wei and stole the Sacred Orb.

AANG
What are you talking about?

SOKKA
Yeah Katara, what are you talking about? Wei Jin didn't steal the Orb -- he was returning it to their village gate and was wrongfully punished by the Gan Jin.

KATARA
Not punished enough if you ask me.

AANG
(impatient)
Okay, okay, I get it. Now I need your help. Let's get everyone together at the base of the canyon wall.

Far ahead of them is the other side of the canyon.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CANYON FLOOR - EASTERN WALL - LATER

Our two groups of refugees are converging. They don't look happy to see each other. Aang is weary from hunger and traveling.

AANG
Please, everyone -- as soon as we get out of here we can eat, and then go our separate ways. But I need you all to put your heads together and figure out a way up this cliff.

He looks above at the sheer cliff side. It seems impossible to scale.

GAN JIN LEADER
Maybe the Zhang can climb the wall with their long, disgusting fingernails.

The members of the Gan Jin tribe LAUGH DERISIVELY.

ZHANG LEADER
Oh sorry, I forgot that to the Gan Jin, unclipped fingernails is a crime punishable by twenty years in jail.

GAN JIN LEADER
Why you dirty thief!

ZHANG LEADER
You pompous fool!

Everybody, including Katara and Sokka, begins YELLING at each other once again.

AANG
Guys, focus! How many times do I have to say it: harsh words won't solve problems. Action will.

The tribes contemplate Aang's words for a beat.

ZHANG LEADER
Perhaps the Avatar is right.

GAN JIN LEADER
Yes, perhaps he is.

ZHANG LEADER
Harsh words will never solve our problems.

Aang beams with joy. Then, at the same time, the two leaders DRAW SWORDS at one another.

GAN JIN LEADER
Action will!

The two duelists circle each other with weapons drawn. And off Aang's expression of weary helplessness, we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. CANYON FLOOR - EASTERN WALL - CONTINUOUS

The two leaders are still in dueling stances.

GAN JIN LEADER
To the death. And let this be the end of this rivalry...

AANG
You know, I take it back. Harsh words aren't so bad.

No one acknowledges him. The refugees ROAR with battle cries for their leaders. Aang looks at the angry faces, all calling for blood. Suddenly the two leaders CLASH -- they exchange a few blows before...

Aang leaps into the air and lands right between the two fighters. As he lands, he fires off a sharp BLAST of air to separate them. It knocks over everything within a 25-foot radius. It's a huge and impressive Airbending move.

AANG
(FRUSTRATED YELL)

As Aang looks around at the refugees picking themselves up off the ground, he sees that his air blast has uncovered two large stashes of FOOD -- one in each tribe.

AANG
Is that... food? Everyone smuggled food down here? Unbelievable. You guys put our lives in danger because you couldn't go without a snack for a day! You are all... awful...

Aang loses steam as he is distracted by a huge EGG CUSTARD TART staring him right in the face.

AANG
So hungry...

He hears a RUMBLE, and looks at his stomach.

AANG
Is that... egg custard in that tart?

The RUMBLE continues. It’s not his stomach... In the distance, coming around the bend in the canyon, is a whole HERD OF CANYON CRAWLERS!

KATARA
Oh no... that’s a lot of canyon crawlers.

SOKKA
We barely survived one.

CANYON GUIDE
They’re coming back for me. They’ve had a taste and they’re coming back for me!

Sokka is scared, but follows him anyway. Katara stops him.

KATARA
Sokka, wait! I don’t care about this stupid feud. I just want us to get out of here alive.

SOKKA
Me too. I only took their side ‘cause they fed me.

They rush to join Aang.

EXT. CANYON FLOOR - A FEW YARDS AWAY

Aang lands, kicking up a wall of dust in front of him that passes over the canyon crawlers. The beasts stop in their tracks. Aang stands his ground as they both size each other up. Then, one of the canyon crawlers opens his huge, terrifying mouth and SCREECHES. The canyon crawlers all attack.

Aang swings his staff in circular Airbending scoops, which flip several canyon crawls on their backs. But this only temporarily stops them as the canyon crawlers right themselves and continue their assault.

One crawler rushes at a Gan Jin member who tries to scurry up the canyon wall. The crawler snaps at him, grabbing and ripping his shirt off as the Gan Jin barely gets away.

A Zhang tries to face a crawler with his sword, but the crawler easily snaps the blade in two with his jaws. The Zhang ducks as the crawler barely misses biting his head off.

Another crawler knocks three people down at once with its leg. It quickly scurries toward them and screeches. Just as the crawler is about to reach the people, Katara water whips it with some water from her waterskin. She reclaims the whip into a floating sphere of water, and then uses it to whip another nearby crawler, driving it back. Before Katara can pull the water back, another crawler jumps in and bites at the whip, splattering the water onto the ground.

We see various shots of people (including Sokka and Aang) trying to fend off canyon crawlers, but being overwhelmed, knocked down, having their weapons destroyed, etc.

A few yards away, the injured canyon guide is trying to defend himself. But his attempts at Earthbending are errant and weak, firing rocks at everything but the monster.

Aang turns around to see that the rest of the canyon crawlers are attacking the refugees. He GASPS.

Then Aang notices something else -- a few of the crawlers aren’t attacking anyone. They’ve got their faces stuffed into the uncovered food stash. Aang gets an idea...

Aang GLIDES over the food and grabs a dumpling and a burlap sack. He tosses the dumpling into the sack and WAVES IT like a matador. A couple of the crawlers look at him, intrigued.

Then, one of the beasts CHARGES at Aang, thrusting its snout into the sack. Aang leaps onto the crawler’s back, and pulls on the sack’s strings, creating a tight MUZZLE. The beast bucks wildly to shake him, but Aang holds on.

AANG
Everybody! Watch me and do what I do!

EXT. CANYON FLOOR - SECONDS LATER

Aang secures another burlap sack over the mouth of a canyon crawler...

Sokka and Katara muzzle a canyon crawler with a burlap sack...

Even Momo wrangles a crawler with a sack-muzzle...

And then the two tribal leaders work together to muzzle another one.

We see another shot or two of the Gan Jin and Zhangs working together to muzzle the crawlers.

Aang calls to everyone from atop his crawler.

AANG
Now follow me! We're riding out of this hole.

Aang rides the crawler to the food stash and scoops up the remaining meats and dumplings. He dangles them in the air, allowing each of the crawlers to pick up the scent. As they come running Aang's way, he looks up at the steep cliff. Aang dangles the food over the head of his crawler monster... And it begins climbing the side of the cliff!

All of the other crawlers start to follow it straight up the canyon wall. As they get closer, Aang leaves his crawler and takes off on his glider, still dangling the food as bait. The hungry crawlers run faster and faster up the cliff.

EXT. EASTERN CANYON RIM - SECONDS LATER

The crawlers successfully carry every last refugee out of the canyon.

AANG
Everyone, get off!

The refugees all jump from the backs of their canyon crawlers. Aang then baits the creatures back toward the edge of the canyon. He throws the whole stash of food over the cliff, and the crawlers scurry into the canyon after it.

ZHANG LEADER
We made it! I never thought a Gan Jin could get his hands dirty like that.

GAN JIN LEADER
And I never knew you Zhangs were so reliable in a pinch.

ZHANG LEADER
Perhaps we're not so different after all.

Aang smiles as he watches the two leaders shake hands. But his smile is short-lived.

GAN JIN LEADER
Too bad we can’t rewrite history...

They release their handshake and resume the stand-off, drawing their swords.

GAN JIN LEADER
You thieves stole our sacred Orb from Jin Wei!

ZHANG LEADER
You tyrants unjustly imprisoned Wei Jin for twenty long years!

Aang slaps his forehead in frustration. Here we go again. Then, a realization sets in.

AANG
Wait a second... “Jin Wei”? “Wei Jin”? I know those guys!

GAN JIN LEADER
Yes, yes, we’re all aware of the story.

AANG
No, I mean -- I really knew them. I might not look it, but I’m a hundred-and-twelve years old. I was there one hundred years ago on the day you’re talking about...

EXT. EARTH KINGDOM COUNTRYSIDE - FLASHBACK

Jin Wei and Wei Jin are standing side-by-side, portrayed in their less flattering renditions. Aang narrates.

AANG (V.O.)
There seems to be a lot of confusion about what happened. First of all, Jin Wei and Wei Jin weren’t enemies.

We see them both MORPH into their more flattering designs.

AANG
They were brothers. Twins, in fact...

Jin Wei and Wei Jin MORPH to look exactly alike.

AANG (V.O.)
And they were eight.

Both men SHRINK down to eight-year-old versions of themselves.

AANG (V.O.)
And most importantly: they were just playing a game!

The field the two men are standing on becomes an ancient version of a soccer field, with each element changing as Aang describes it.

AANG (V.O.)
The sacred Orb from the legend? That was the ball! And the Eastern and Western Gates were the goal posts.

We see the game being played as Aang describes it.

AANG (V.O.)
Jin Wei had the ball and was running toward the goal when he fell and fumbled it. Wei Jin didn't steal the ball -- he picked it up, and started running it back toward the other goal. But he stepped out of bounds. So the official put him in the penalty box -- not for twenty long years, but for two short minutes.

EXT. EASTERN CANYON RIM - PRESENT

AANG
There was no stealing and no putting anyone in prison. Just a game.

All of the refugees are now staring at Aang in disbelief.

ZHANG LEADER
... you're saying the sacred Orb was actually a sacred ball?

AANG
Nope. Just a regular ball.

GAN JIN SCOUT
What about our tribe’s redemption ritual?

AANG
That’s what the game was called -- “Redemption.” As soon as someone got the ball from one goal to the other, everyone would yell “Redemption!”

Aang throws his hands up like goal posts. The refugees don’t know what to make of Aang’s account.

AANG
Don’t get me wrong, Wei Jin was kind of a slob, and Jin Wei was a little stuffy. That much is true. But they respected each other’s differences enough to share the same playing field.

The refugees slowly begin to make eye contact with each other.

ZHANG LEADER
I suppose it’s time we forgot the past...

GAN JIN LEADER
And looked to the future...

After a moment of consideration, the Zhang leader extends her hand. They shake. Aang couldn’t be more pleased. After they are done shaking, the Gan Jin leader subtly wipes his hand.

EXT. EARTH KINGDOM FOREST CLEARING - AN HOUR LATER

The two tribes are preparing to continue their long journey.

AANG
Good to see you, boy. Did you miss me?

Appa gives him a big, sloppy LICK.

GAN JIN LEADER
I cannot thank you enough, Avatar.

AANG
(blushing)
Well, you know. I try.

The two tribes begin walking side-by-side down the path to Ba Sing Se.

ZHANG LEADER
Let us travel to the Earth Kingdom capital as one tribe!

The refugees CHEER. The canyon guide runs to join them.

CANYON GUIDE
I’m going, too! I’m sick of this place.

When everyone is safely out of earshot, Sokka turns to Aang.

SOKKA
That’s some luck that you knew Jin Wei and Wei Jin.

AANG
You could call it luck or... you could call it lying.

SOKKA
What?

He smiles a gigantic grin as he leans in to tell them.

AANG
I made the whole thing up.

Katara and Sokka are flabbergasted.

KATARA
You did not.

Aang raises his eyebrows and smiles. Katara SHAKES HER HEAD, but with a slight hint of approval.

KATARA
That is so wrong.

AANG
Now where’s that custard tart, I’m starving...

And as they climb aboard Appa, we...

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW